

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-45. (Cancelled).

46. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

inserting a cable member into a recess in a bone;

inserting a retention device containing a shape memory polymer into the recess while the shape memory polymer is in a temporary pre-implantation shape due to a shape memory effect of the shape memory polymer; ~~the retention device containing a shape memory material;~~ and

positioning the retention device in the recess while the shape memory polymer is in the temporary pre-implantation shape such that the retention device contacts the cable member and the bone; and

causing ~~activating~~ the shape memory ~~material~~ polymer to change its shape through the shape memory effect from the temporary pre-implantation shape toward an unconstrained shape of the shape memory polymer, thereby fixing the cable member to the bone with the retention device.

47-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the cable member is selected from an animal tissue, a synthetic fiber, a natural fiber, a polymer, a metallic wire, a bundle, and a composite.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the animal tissue is human soft tissue.

53-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the inserting the cable member operation precedes the inserting the retention device operation.

56. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the inserting the cable member operation is performed simultaneously with the inserting the retention device operation.

57-138. (Cancelled).

139. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46~~claim 54~~, wherein ~~the activating is~~ causing the shape memory polymer to change shape through the shape memory effect is performed by heating, and wherein the heating comprises a transfer of heat from the bone to the shape memory polymer~~material~~.

140. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46~~claim 54~~, wherein ~~the activating is~~ causing the shape memory polymer to change shape through the shape memory effect is performed by heating, and wherein the heating comprises flooding the retention device with a liquid bath.

141. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46~~claim 54~~, wherein ~~the activating is~~ causing the shape memory polymer to change shape through the shape memory effect is performed by heating, and wherein the heating comprises a transfer of heat from the bone to the shape memory polymer~~material~~, and flooding the retention device with a liquid bath.